

fellow Idahoans by suggesting I create two awards: the Spirit of Idaho for volunteers, and the Spirit of Freedom for veterans and those who work with veterans. These awards recognize the extraordinary efforts of Idahoans and the service of veterans and volunteers serving veterans. She also helped achieve hard-sought land access and conservation policies. Linda was a nurse by training and profession, which is consistent with her gift for helping and caring for people, a behavior she demonstrated repeatedly. The legacy that she left upon her retirement remains today in the Crapo office.

Since news of her unexpected passing has reached my staff and former staff members, remembrances of Linda have poured in. I would like to share a few with you:

"Linda was a singular individual who set the pace for constituent services in Idaho. She cared for individuals and families, not 'cases'. Her approach influenced me and how I set up succeeding constituent services operations. Her zealous care for people has been emulated and has resulted in thousands of Idahoans getting the help they deserve from their government."

"Linda was truly an amazing, generous, and gracious lady. She truly was beautiful both inside and out. Linda made me feel so welcome on my first trip to Idaho. She joked with people that she introduced me to that I was from way, way Southern Idaho. We decided that Lava Hot Springs would be my adopted hometown. Really being from Louisiana, I loved that Linda and I shared strong Southern roots, and great wacky stories."

"She has that southern mixture of sweetness and sass with an underlying spirit and determination that was always apparent."

Beyond her professional accomplishments, Linda was a great friend. Not only did she pay attention to my professional needs, but she also recognized when some personal time was needed. Many times when I was working in her region, she built in time in the schedule for a much needed clothes shopping trip, a visit to the eye doctor, or just some down time with my family. My wife, family, and I have all been blessed with her friendship. Linda will be missed beyond measure, and I extend deep condolences to family and friends. Thank you for your service, Linda. Rest in peace, dear friend.

RECOGNIZING CANDLE-LITE COMPANY ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Candle-lite Company—the oldest continually operating candle company in the United States—as it celebrates its 175th anniversary.

Candle-lite Company was founded in 1840 by Thomas Emery, who traveled door-to-door selling candles in Cincinnati, OH. His venture continued to grow and eventually his son, Thomas

Jr., joined the business. Candle-lite's products were manufactured in various locations in the Cincinnati area before manufacturing was moved to its current location in Leesburg, OH, in 1952.

Today, Candle-lite's 1 million-square-foot manufacturing and distribution facility in Leesburg employs over 600 Ohioans annually and the corporate headquarters in Blue Ash employs 70.

I congratulate Candle-lite and its employees in making its first 175 years a success and extend my best wishes for the next 175 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RUTH GRIFFIN

• Ms. AYOTTE. Mr. President, today I wish to honor one of New Hampshire's most revered and accomplished leaders, Ruth Lewin Griffin, as she celebrates her 90th birthday.

Born in Fall River, MA, Ruth moved to Portsmouth, NH, at a young age and continues to reside there today. Most notably, she served as executive councilor for the third district of New Hampshire for 20 years. As a testament to her continued commitment to the Granite State, Ruth currently serves as chairman of the Portsmouth Housing Authority.

But Ruth's career of service began long before her time on the executive council. After graduating from Portsmouth High School, Ruth went on to pursue a degree from Wentworth Hospital School of Nursing. Using the skills she learned as a registered nurse, she dove headfirst into a career as a public servant, holding office as a State senator and State representative and serving on the Portsmouth Police Commission and board of education. She also served as a delegate to two Constitutional Conventions and as a Republican national committeewoman. Ruth has earned well-deserved praise for her service to our State, including being named one of New Hampshire's Ten Most Powerful Women for 6 years in a row, and most recently, she received the 2015 Granite State Legacy Award, which honors dedication to the State, its people, and way of life.

In addition to her tremendous service to New Hampshire, Ruth has been blessed with a wonderful family, including the late John Griffin, five children, five grandchildren, and two great-grandsons. Four generations of the Griffin family have lived on their family farm, raising sheep, chickens, and other livestock. As the matriarch of the family, Ruth strives to teach her family members the values she learned on the farm—hard work, humility, and perseverance. She will often tell you, invoking her family motto, that she lives her life "by courage, not by cunning."

Ruth embodies the spirit of a true New Hampshire leader. Her life is marked by her dedicated service and her devotion to making New Hamp-

shire a better place to live and work. I had the privilege of serving alongside Ruth in the Governor's office and the attorney general's office and will be forever grateful for her wisdom, guidance, and mentorship. I am very proud to recognize and celebrate Ruth's birthday and her extraordinary contributions to the State. I wish Ruth and her family the best on this very special day and for many more years of health and happiness.●

REMEMBERING LAURA MYERS

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, we honor the life and legacy of Laura Myers, whose passing signifies a great loss to Nevada. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends during this time of hardship. Laura was an incredible person, committed to bringing joy to those around her through humanitarian service and fair-and-balanced news to residents across Nevada. She truly represented the best of journalistic excellence. She will be sorely missed by the entire Nevada family.

Laura was born on August 26, 1961, in Las Vegas. She spent the majority of her childhood in northern Nevada, where she received her education and graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno. She began her journalism career with the Reno Gazette-Journal in 1984 and took her first step in political coverage, reporting the Nevada Legislature, in 1987. She was then hired in 1988 by the Associated Press to cover news in Carson City and later in the San Francisco and San Jose, CA, areas.

Over the next 20 years, Laura pursued both her humanitarian and journalistic passion, leaving and returning to the AP several times and working with Habitat for Humanity in Uganda, Mongolia, and New York, alongside her day job throughout the 1990s and 2000s. Laura's first departure from the AP was in 1992 after she joined the Peace Corps, where she spent time working to help a remote village in Togo, West Africa. In 1995, Laura worked with the American Refugee Committee, managing logistics at a refugee camp in the Congo. Immediately after, she accepted another job offer from the AP with a position covering politics, foreign affairs, the military, and national security in Washington, DC.

In 2003, Laura left the AP and fulfilled her passion for movies, studying at the New York Film Academy. Afterwards, in 2006, Laura spent 10 months in North Africa and the Middle East as a management consultant for Arabic and French-language newspapers. After filling another position with the AP in 2007, Laura worked for Food for All of Washington. From 1988 to 2008, her extraordinary hard work and good character maintained a good relationship with the AP, continuously preserving an opportunity to return. In 2009, after committing time to teaching English to adults in Egypt, Laura returned to Nevada and was hired as the Las Vegas

Review-Journal's political reporter in 2010. Her final years were spent bringing unforgettable political coverage to the Las Vegas community.

Throughout her 30 years in Nevada journalism, Laura strived to travel the world and achieve a greater understanding of her surroundings. She sought to transcribe and bring an accurate picture of her findings to her readers. Her insatiable appetite to uncover important news stories and bring Nevadans pertinent political information made her the incredible journalist that she was. She embodied the Battle Born spirit of determination, fearlessness, confidence, and resilience. She was a fierce competitor, bringing out the absolute best of Nevada journalism. I worked with Laura for many years and have seen firsthand her unwavering dedication to her trade. Our relationship operated under an open-door policy, and I am grateful for everything she has done.

I extend my deepest sympathies to her family. We will always remember Laura for her invaluable contribution to the local community and for her compassion that touched so many lives around the globe. Her legacy of kindness, dedication, and true drive will echo on for years to come in Nevada journalism.

Laura fought to bring Nevada only the most accurate journalism. Even in her final weeks, her dedication to those around her never faltered. I am honored to commend her for her hard work and invaluable contribution to the Silver State. Today, I join the Las Vegas community and citizens of the Silver State to celebrate the life of an upstanding Nevadan and friend, Laura Myers.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID SAMRICK

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Mr. David Samrick on the occasion of his recognition as the 2014 Service Center Executive of the Year by Metal Center News. Mr. Samrick has worked at Mill Steel since 1965, and was named president in 1976 after his father stepped back from day-to-day management of the family's company. Under his leadership, Mill Steel has grown from a single-location in Grand Rapids, MI into the 23rd largest service center organization selling flat-rolled steel from Canada to the gulf coast. I appreciate the opportunity to recognize Mr. Samrick's success as a business leader, as well as the contributions he has made to communities throughout western Michigan.

Mr. Samrick is the heart and soul of Mill Steel, the company founded by his parents in 1959. Its success is a testament to Mr. Samrick's team-building skills and his confidence in the company's leadership. Each member of the six-person leadership team has equity in the company, and all share the responsibility of directing its operations. The team reflects a diversity which is unique in the steel industry, a reflection

of Mr. Samrick's belief in attracting the best talent available regardless of age or gender. An example of the breadth and diversity of experience at Mill Steel is the fact that—when you include Mr. Samrick—the company's leadership team includes individuals born in the 1940s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s.

The success of Mr. Samrick's approach to management is evident in Mill Steel's track record, especially during the past 5 years. The company's revenue first crossed the \$100 million mark in the early 2000s. In 2010, Mill Steel expanded outside the Midwest with the purchase of the former Coated Steel facility in Birmingham, AL. Last year, it added a facility at the Port of Indiana to its holdings. This has allowed Mill Steel to become a prominent player in the flat-roll steel market from Toronto to Texas. It anticipates 700,000 tons of flat-rolled steel will pass through the doors of Mill Steel next year, with revenue expected to exceed \$600 million in 2015.

Mill Steel's success is due in no small part to the company's hard work and the loyalty displayed between it and its clients. Mr. Samrick's patient and trusting leadership has helped Mill Steel remain flexible during economic downturns. This flexibility is also illustrated in the company's commitment to technology and service. In particular, the company's Rapid Response program allows it to regularly prepare and ship an order within 4 hours of being received. Mr. Samrick's trust in his team allows Mill Steel to address the dynamic needs of its customers, encouraging loyalty and trust across the board.

Mr. Samrick's successful approach to leadership is not only rooted in his confidence in the leadership and staff of Steel Mill; it reflects his love for his family and a desire to lead a balanced lifestyle. Mr. Samrick is devoted to his wife, two children and five grandchildren. He also embraces a culture of philanthropy, demonstrated by his role as a national leader on the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and his longtime commitment to Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Western Michigan and its parent organization, D.A. Blodgett St. John's of Michigan.

For almost 20 years, Mill Steel has led the fundraising efforts of Big Brother and Big Sisters of Western Michigan. The company took leadership of the organization's annual golf outing in 1996. Since that time, the event has raised nearly \$1.7 million, helping match 11,000 children with mentors. The annual golf outing culminates in a dinner where the Harry Samrick Scholarship, named in honor of Mr. Samrick's father, is awarded. It is one of the many ways Mr. Samrick and Mill Steel supports children, including services projects at group homes and visits to children hospitals.

Again, I would like to congratulate Mr. David Samrick on being recognized as the 2014 Service Center Executive of the Year by Metal Center News. I ap-

plaud Mr. Samrick's success, as well as his dedication to his family and community. I am confident his leadership will continue to shape the future of Steel Mill and communities throughout western Michigan.●

RECOGNIZING HASPEL

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, small businesses can often influence American culture and provide rich traditions that we celebrate for decades to come. Born out of the unique features of their hometowns, these businesses have become an important part of our history. The "Throwback Thursday" Small Business of the Week, Haspel of New Orleans, LA has created an all-American brand of clothing that has supported domestic enterprise and manufacturing.

In 1909, Joseph Haspel Sr. created his namesake seersucker brand to help Louisianians cope with the Mighty Mississippi's heat and humidity. Haspel recognized the need for versatile, lightweight clothing that could be worn during both the summer days and evenings. He based the puckered cloth off of a similar design used by workers in India, where the fabric was originally used to make overalls and laboring clothes. Haspel soon realized that a wide variety of folks could benefit from the innovative design—not simply just the day laborers for which the design was initially intended. From here, the seersucker business suit was born and quickly became a popular icon of the southern gentleman, worn at jazz concerts and cocktail parties alike. The style spread farther north and eventually solidified its place as an emblem of sophistication, having outfitted nearly every President since Calvin Coolidge. Haspel is now in its fourth generation as a family-owned business and continues to provide lightweight and stylish clothing across the country.

Joseph Haspel centered his brand on the unique culture of New Orleans and southern Louisiana. In addition to providing a cloth that would help people stay cool throughout the summer, he was committed to crafting clothes that were enjoyable to wear. To demonstrate his wash-and-wear fabric, Haspel supposedly jumped into the Atlantic Ocean in his suit, hung it up to dry, and wore it to an event later that evening. His commitment to durable, comfortable clothing has attracted loyal customers for over 100 years. This wash-and-wear material is used today for everything from suits to shorts.

Congratulations again to Haspel for being selected as the "Throwback Thursday" Small Business of the Week. Thank you for your continued embodiment of Louisiana culture and dedication to 100 percent made-in-America quality clothing.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to